

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00905 280800Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0905

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MU
SUBJECT: DHOFAR SITUATION IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF ADEN EVENTS

REF (A) MUSCAT 0788, (B) MUSCAT 0844

1. COL JOHN QUINN, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER OF SULTAN
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OF OMAN'S LAND FORCES (SOLF), BRIEFED CHARGE JUNE 27 ON
SITUATION IN DHOFAR AND ALONG OMAN-PDRY BORDER IN
IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF EVENTS IN ADEN.
2. QUINN SAID ACTIVITY OBSERVED ON PDRY SIDE OF BORDER
HAD BEEN "ABSOLUTELY NORMAL" DURING LAST FEW DAYS, DESPITE
THE TURMOIL IN THE PDRY CAPITAL FARTHER WEST. IF ANY
CHANGE OF PDRY POLICY TOWARD OMAN IS DESTINED TO TAKE

PLACE AS RESULT OF EVENTS IN ADEN, THERE IS NO SIGN OF IT YET. QUINN DID NOT BELIEVE ANY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY MOVES BY PDRY WOULD BE FEASIBLE DURING THREE-MONTH MONSOON THAT BEGAN MID-JUNE. MOST PROBABLE MANIFESTATION OF ANY HARDER LINE IN NEAR FUTURE, QUINN THOUGHT, WOULD BE PDRY CRACKDOWN ON REFUGEES WHO REGULARLY ENTER OMAN IN VARYING NUMBERS. INCREASED SUPPORT FOR PFLO IN PROPAGANDA, TRAINING, AND INFILTRATION IS ALSO POSSIBLE, BUT QUINN BELIEVED ANY INFILTRATION WOULD BE MINOR IRRITANT CONFINED TO BORDER ZONE. MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE REMAINING PFLO CADRES IN THE EASTERN DHOFA MOUNTAINS SEEMS LOGISTICALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

3. CONCERNING THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION IN DHOFAR, QUINN SAID THAT THE TWO RECENT INCIDENTS (REFTELS) DO NOT IN THEMSELVES INDICATE ANY TREND. THE INCIDENT ON THE BEACH INVOLVING CIVILIANS COULD HAVE BEEN A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY, RATHER THAN A CAREFULLY PLANNED OPERATION. NEVERTHELESS, CIVILIAN EXPATRIATES IN SALALAH ARE BEING ADVISED TO AVOID RURAL AREAS OF DHOFAR AFTER SUNDOWN. THE ONLY REALLY DANGEROUS AREA REMAINS THE EASTERN DHOFAR MOUNTAINS, QUINN THOUGHT.

4. QUINN NOTED THAT RUMORS ARE RIFE IN DHOFAR AT PRESENT, SHOWING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ANXIETY AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION THERE. FOR EXAMPLE, A HELICOPTER
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CRASH LAST WEEK TWENTY MILES NORTHWEST OF SALALAH IS WIDELY RUMORED TO BE DUE TO ENEMY FIRE, WHEREAS ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE POINTS TO AN ACCIDENT CAUSED BY OVERLOADING.

COMMENT: THIS BRIEFING CONFIRMS THE VIEW WE ARE GETTING FROM OTHER SOURCES HERE THAT THE LATE EVENTS IN ADEN MAY BRING HEIGHTENED PROBLEMS FOR OMAN EVENTUALLY, BUT THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO EXPECT TROUBLE FROM THAT QUARTER IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. END COMMENT
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